

Adopt an Alley Program

The City of Wilmington is seeking residents, local civic groups and organizations, and businesses to pitch in and clean up downtown. The City will power wash, weed, and remove trash from the following alleys: Post Office, Vance, Dickinson, Nutt Street, and Wilkinson. Once this initial “clean sweep” is completed, the Adopt An Alley Program will begin. Residents, local civic groups, and organizations can adopt an alley, turning downtown’s industrial reminders of urban life into intriguing places of beauty.

Guidelines

1. Select one of the above listed alleys that your organization would like to adopt.
2. After your organization has selected an alley, please contact the Parks, Recreation and Downtown Services office at 254-0907 to determine if the alley is available.
3. Your official request must be submitted in writing and must include a brief description and rough sketch of any structural and design changes, including landscaping that are planned.
4. Once your organization has successfully held 6 cleanup days within 6 months, the city will erect a sign in the alley noting the group’s adoption of the alley.
5. The alley will require attention biweekly or at a minimum once per month
6. The alleys will be checked periodically. Any organization that does not fulfill their pledge may be asked to forfeit their alley to another group and their sign will be removed from the alley.
7. Notify the City immediately if you wish to discontinue volunteer service

Rules for the Alleys

1. Buildings along the alley are privately owned, any modifications or alterations to the buildings must be approved by the building owner through an “owner agent form” and must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness* if the building is located in the Downtown Commercial Historic District Overlay.
2. Each alley must retain a 4-foot wide safe pedestrian passageway, as well as walkways to every door abutting the alley. The City cannot approve an alley for the alley program if the surface is not safe and hazard free for pedestrians. The City will NOT be resurfacing alleys at this time, but may fill smaller holes on a case by case basis.

3. Air conditioning units, power lines and meters cannot be enclosed, but can be screened
4. With building owner permission, grease barrels, or other encroachments can be screened with stockade fencing. The screening can be painted or decorated. If the encroachment is located within the boundaries of the Downtown Commercial Historic District Overlay, a Certificate of Appropriateness* must be issued before work may begin.
5. Paint colors or public art placed in the alley within the boundaries of the Downtown Commercial Historic District Overlay must be approved by the Historic Preservation Commission. A Certificate of Appropriateness* must be obtained.
6. Landscaping in the alleys must be able to flourish in that alley and must be maintained by the alley volunteers. Containerized plantings are requested due to the alley restraints. The City will provide appropriate containers that meet the Historic District requirements, and will provide a list of appropriate plants.
7. Advertising or displays in the alley are prohibited.
8. Groups must identify a water source for watering plants. An adjacent building owner can agree to provide water, or the group can carry in water as needed.

*All applications for certificates of appropriateness and/or other city department approvals will be submitted and tracked by the Adopt an Alley program. Volunteers simply need to include any required forms with their adopt-an-alley registration.

Adopt-an-Alley Registration Form

Name (individual or organization) _____

Address:

Day phone number: _____

Evening phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Officers of the organization: _____

(I) (We) hereby, adopt the alley listed below and pledge to conduct a litter or trash cleanup at least once (1) per month and follow the rules of the program:

As a reward for my/our pledge to keep the alley beautiful, the City of Wilmington will erect an appropriate sign noting our adoption after the 6th cleanup

Signature(s) _____

Effective starting date: _____

Renewal date: _____

The City of Wilmington greatly appreciates and thanks you for your participation as a volunteer. Please understand that as a volunteer you are not an employee of the city for purposes of worker's compensation or any other form of benefit provided to municipal employees and that you are not covered by the city's liability insurance.